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Special:

Circular Letter

TO: STATE AND CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY AND CONTRACTING
AGENCY HEALTH BENEFITS OFFICERS AND ASSISTANTS

SUBJECT: OPEN ENROLLMENT PREVIEW FOR 2006

The 2006 CalPERS Health Open Enrollment period will begin this year on September 1, 2006 and end on September 29, 2006. We are returning to the historical September 1 starting date this year to accommodate important CalPERS system upgrades.

Here are some of the highlights for this year's Open Enrollment:

We are introducing a new publication, *CalPERS Health Program Guide*. It will replace the following publications:

- *Understanding Medicare*
- *Health Program Handbook*
- *Health Plan Decision Guide*

The *Health Program Guide* describes Basic and Medicare health plan eligibility, and on enrollment choices, and summarizes benefits, covered services, and copayment information.

The Member Open Enrollment Packet:

Your employees will begin receiving their Open Enrollment Packet in late July through early August. This year the packet will contain:

- An updated and personalized Health Plan Statement providing employees the following information about their current health plan:
 - Eligible family members enrolled under their plan, and
 - Eligibility ZIP code.

- The rates for 2007, attached to:
 - Return postcard for ordering the following publications:
 - *Health Program Guide* and *Benefit Summary*, and
 - *Quality Report*.
- A new publication, “*Open Enrollment News*”, that will provide your employees with important information about:
 - Key Open Enrollment dates and deadlines,
 - Any benefit and rate changes,
 - Types of Open Enrollment transactions,
 - Tools and resources available to help select a health plan, and
 - Dental Open Enrollment information (State and CSU only).

On-Line Assistance:

CalPERS offers members:

- A variety of publications on the Forms and Publications link,
- The Health Plan Chooser tool to review pertinent information for selecting a health plan, and
- Health Plan Search by ZIP Code tool to see what plans are available in the employee’s region.

CalPERS is looking forward to a successful 2006 Open Enrollment Period. The Open Enrollment Circular Letter and a copy of the *Open Enrollment News* along with premium rate information will be mailed to you at the end of July. Distribution of the Open Enrollment Packet will follow in mid-August.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY HOLLY A. FONG

Holly A. Fong, Chief
Office of Employer & Member Health Services